## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

## IN THE MATTER OF:

Sheldon Arpad t/a Come to Eat 3222 O Street, NW Retailer CR - ANC-2E License No. 85370

Fact-Finding Hearing

(License in Safekeeping)

February 19, 2014

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C. 20009, Chairperson Ruthanne Miller, presiding.

## PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson NICK ALBERTI, Member DONALD BROOKS, Member MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member JAMES SHORT, Member

Page 2
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
(10:09 a.m.)
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are the
parties here from Come to Eat? Okay. So I'm
going to call that case. Come to Eat, 3220 O
Street, N.W., License No. 85370, in ANC-2C.
And this is a Fact-Finding Hearing with
respect to a license in safekeeping.
MR. BARON: Good morning, Sandy
David Baron on behalf of the licensee.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm sorry,
could you repeat that?
MR. BARON: Sandy David Baron.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. BARON: I'm a colleague of Mr.
Schaeffer. He is out of the country visiting
his family.
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
MR. BARON: Would you like the
attorney/agent designation?
CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, could you
sit down for a minute because actually the

	Page 3
1	mike picks you up better when you are sitting
2	down at the table and closer to it.
3	Okay. What did you want to ask?
4	MR. BARON: Did you want the
5	attorney/agent designation?
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, sure. Do
7	you want to get that?
8	MEMBER ALBERTI: Ms. Walker will
9	get it from you.
10	MR. BARON: All right. Thank you.
11	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are you in
12	the same firm or
13	MR. BARON: Yes.
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
15	MR. BARON: And with me to my left
16	is?
17	MR. LaCOMB: Mike LaComb. I have
18	met with most of you before, a business
19	manager for Arpad. Thank you.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah, okay.
21	So Mr. Baron?
22	MR. BARON: Yes.

	Page 4
1	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Counsel and
2	what's your name again?
3	MR. LaCOMB: LaComb.
4	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: LaComb?
5	MR. LaCOMB: Yes.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Business
7	manager.
8	MR. LaCOMB: LaComb. Yes.
9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.
10	So the last thing we have from you all is a
11	letter dated December 11, 2013?
12	MR. BARON: Correct.
13	MR. LaCOMB: Yes.
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Indicating
15	your attempts to sell the license.
16	MR. BARON: That's correct.
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And is there
18	an update to this?
19	MR. LaCOMB: I'll answer.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
21	MR. LaCOMB: Yes. Well, beyond
22	what we have already included in the letter,

Page 5 1 I don't -- if you want me to read -- go through those points I will. Do you want me 2 3 to go through them again? CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, I -- is 4 there something new? 5 MR. LaCOMB: 6 Yes. 7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Is there something to add to the --8 9 MR. LaCOMB: Yes. 10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- point? 11 MR. LaCOMB: We have just added some other things. We have also been 12 13 advertising in the Washington Post and Craigslist and we have -- I have made phone 14 calls to about 20 different Georgetown 15 16 commercial real estate brokers personally and 17 they are telling me that they are going to look for clients and see what they have got 18 coming in. 19 20 I have also put out the word of 21 mouth to the restauranteurs, as many of them 22 as I could get to in Georgetown, because we

purchase our liquor license said to us was

22

that they had heard that the whole theory of-behind this was that the Board had decided
that they were going to bring all the licenses
back in for safekeeping and then reissue them
back out to new applicants as they were coming
in.

So they believed that they -- they address with us was why did we want to pay for a license that we don't have to pay for. So if we can just then apply to the Board and get the license, why do we want to have to pay anybody else that has already gone through the expense of getting the license. So that's what happened.

Now, I'm not saying that that's true. I'm just saying that that was what their perception was and what they had heard. And that came also from members of the Georgetown Realtor Association who also verified that same rumor and that's all I can tell you.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So the rumor

	Page 8
1	was not just that your license might be put in
2	safe pulled, but that everybody's was going
3	to be pulled?
4	MR. LaCOMB: That's exactly what
5	they heard, yes.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I know Board
7	Members have a lot of questions. I just want
8	to ask you, what you referred to expenses
9	that you had laid out in getting the license.
10	MR. LaCOMB: Well, our legal fees
11	so far in regards to this license are in
12	excess of \$20,000.
13	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Your legal
14	fees, what are they related to?
15	MR. LaCOMB: The attorneys that we
16	used to get the license initially and then to
17	have it moved from a location into safekeeping
18	and also the of course, the renewal fees
19	that we have also paid are in addition to the
20	legal fees to keep the license alive.
21	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Would you say
22	there is a demand for the license of your's in

Page 9 1 Georgetown or not? MR. LaCOMB: I haven't found it 2 3 yet. If it exists, I would be happy to jump on it. I actually -- just the gentleman that 4 came up before us, I actually know him and I 5 hadn't gotten in touch with him yet, but I 6 talked to him and he said he may have somebody 7 that is very interested in that, but he just 8 9 left and, of course, we didn't have time to 10 get into that, because we were getting called 11 up and he was leaving. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 12 Okay. I'm 13 going to let other Board Members ask some questions. Mr. Alberti, do you have some 14 Mr. Brooks? questions? 15 16 MEMBER BROOKS: Oh, yes. 17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. MEMBER BROOKS: 18 I just had a Is Mr. Arpad in the audience? 19 comment. 20 MR. LaCOMB: No, he is not. 21 MEMBER BROOKS: Was he here at the

22

last hearing?

	Page 10
1	MR. LaCOMB: He did make one of
2	the hearings. I can't remember which one it
3	was. I have been before you. I think this is
4	my third time here. Yeah, yeah.
5	MEMBER BROOKS: I don't think he
6	was with you the last time.
7	MR. LaCOMB: I think he was once,
8	but I could be wrong. I
9	MEMBER BROOKS: Yeah, he might
10	have been along, but not the last time.
11	MR. LaCOMB: But we have other
12	licenses that we have been before and I can't
13	sometimes I get them mixed up which time he
14	has been here. He lives in Florida, so it's
15	difficult for him to get here.
16	MEMBER BROOKS: I see. Okay.
17	MR. LaCOMB: Yeah.
18	MEMBER BROOKS: Thank you, Madam
19	Chair.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are there
21	other questions? Yeah, Mr. Alberti?
22	MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. LaComb, so

Page 11 I would like to sort of get 1 let's step back. a time line from you. When did you first 2 start shopping this license around to either 3 transfer it or to sell it or to find a new 4 location for it? When did you start that 5 6 process? MR. LaCOMB: 7 Short --8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Let me say, we 9 know for back in February of 2013, I believe 10 you were here. 11 MR. LaCOMB: Yes. MEMBER ALBERTI: I have seen the 12 13 transcript to refresh my memory. MR. LaCOMB: 14 I was. MEMBER ALBERTI: You had some 15 problems with the current location and I think 16 17 you concluded, at that time, that it just wasn't going to work out at that current 18 location. So the next step that you told us 19 20 about was your intention to either sell, 21 transfer or find a -- transfer to a new owner or transfer to a new location. 22

	Do 11
1	Page 12 Okay. So when did you start that
2	process?
3	MR. LaCOMB: Okay. All right.
4	Just to get that exactly correct, in February,
5	we weren't sure yet that we weren't going to
6	be able to go to that location, because we had
7	a tenant in there that is a day care. And we
8	weren't sure if they were going to renew or if
9	we were going to go in with the restaurant.
10	So we had to come to that decision
11	and you had asked us to report back to you.
12	MEMBER ALBERTI: So when did you
13	come to that decision?
14	MR. LaCOMB: Yeah, about August or
15	September of 2013. We knew we had to come
16	back to the Board, because you had set a
17	return date of October. We were here in
18	October to tell you what our intentions were,
19	because you had asked us in February to come
20	back in, basically, six months and say tell
21	us what, you know, you are going to do.
22	And we knew we were going to come

	Page 13
1	and tell you that we were going to try to sell
2	it or transfer it and to another vendor
3	and
4	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. What steps
5	did you take after that? Sort of give me a
6	time line of what steps you took.
7	MR. LaCOMB: Well, that's when we
8	started advertising, you know, in the Post in
9	Craigslist, word of mouth, making phone calls
10	to the Georgetown Business Association, to the
11	Washington D.C. Metro Restaurant Association,
12	to the real estate brokers in the Georgetown
13	area, all that.
14	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So
15	December 13, 2013, you wrote us this letter.
16	Is that correct?
17	MR. LaCOMB: That is correct.
18	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So since
19	then, what steps have you taken that you could
20	have, but that you didn't take before or that
21	you should have? I mean, what
22	MR. LaCOMB: Well, I

Page 14 1 MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm trying to figure out like you opened up today, it was 2 3 like, with all these things that you did. All right? 4 MR. LaCOMB: Correct. 5 MEMBER ALBERTI: But what I'm 6 hearing are those things -- what you have --7 8 the steps you have just enumerated in your 9 opening remarks, were steps that you either 10 had taken before December or should have taken 11 before December. MR. LaCOMB: That's correct. 12 13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, since 14 December, what have you done to step up the game? 15 16 MR. LaCOMB: Well, those efforts 17 have been ongoing. And as I mentioned to you, that's when we got in -- it was in January, 18 the first week of January when we were that 19 close to having a deal done and then they 20 21 pulled out, based on the rumor just in 22 January.

	Page 15
1	MEMBER ALBERTI: So we're now five
2	months into this and you have not been able to
3	find a prospective buyer?
4	MR. LaCOMB: That is correct.
5	MEMBER ALBERTI: Or a location?
6	MR. LaCOMB: That is correct. I
7	don't
8	MEMBER ALBERTI: Why should we
9	believe that you are going to be successful
10	any time soon?
11	MR. LaCOMB: Okay. Good question.
12	I mean, I wish I had a great answer for you,
13	but I don't, but I'm going to give you the
14	best answer I got.
15	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
16	MR. LaCOMB: The best answer I got
17	is the timing of this type of industry in
18	business, as you know more than I do, is that
19	if you can get it going now in the spring and
20	the summer and open for the fall, then you are
21	in good shape.
22	Going into the end of the year,

hardly anybody in the winter months here wants to start and get into a business and start that process then. I think the timing now is number one of the weather, that's number one.

Number two is we are willing to take on more expense to go into national advertising where I think that we might get more interest of corporate and different types of people that may want to come in and put a restaurant in the area.

So but that costs a lot more. We weren't ready to take that step until we at least got before you and knew you were going to give us enough time to take the to -- so we could go forward with that.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So were you aware that your license was at-risk here?

MR. LaCOMB: Yes.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. And that wasn't incentive to give you enough incentive to take the extra step to go national with your advertising?

	Page 17
1	MR. LaCOMB: Well, it is a
2	MEMBER ALBERTI: I'm like
3	astounded here.
4	MR. LaCOMB: Well, as we have
5	already
6	MEMBER ALBERTI: How you've got a
7	license that is on the line and you believe
8	it's valuable, I'm not so sure it is any more,
9	because you don't have a place for it.
10	MR. LaCOMB: Right. Right.
11	MEMBER ALBERTI: So I here your
12	comment. I'm just astounded that that wasn't
13	incentive enough for you.
14	MR. LaCOMB: Well, we have already
15	got \$50,000 into it, so do we want to keep
16	throwing more money? Going national is going
17	to probably cost us \$8,000 to \$10,000 more.
18	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Sometimes
19	it's just like in the Stock Market, it gets
20	better the longer it's out. All right. Let
21	me ask another question here.
22	MR. LaCOMB: Okay.

	Page 18
1	MEMBER ALBERTI: You first applied
2	for this license in 2009?
3	MR. LaCOMB: I wasn't involved at
4	that time. But I want to just say if that's
5	what you've got in your record, I will
6	MEMBER ALBERTI: I believe it was
7	in 2009.
8	MR. LaCOMB: Yeah, it's whenever
9	the moratorium was lifted in Georgetown
10	MEMBER ALBERTI: Yeah.
11	MR. LaCOMB: to allow for
12	liquor licenses.
13	MEMBER ALBERTI: 2009/2010.
14	MR. LaCOMB: Simon Osnos was our
15	attorney.
16	MEMBER ALBERTI: What happened
17	between I mean, why did it take so long?
18	Why would it take four years to come to this
19	conclusion?
20	MR. LaCOMB: Well
21	MEMBER ALBERTI: If it was like or
22	three at least. Minimum was three years to

	Page 19
1	come to the conclusion that you can't operate
2	it.
3	MR. LaCOMB: We are like a tragedy
4	story on this license. Our attorney, Simon
5	Osnos, developed brain cancer and passed away.
6	So the whole process for us to get the license
7	to begin with and to get done with it got
8	completely extenuated way out there. When he
9	passed away, nobody could even find his files.
10	This is I came on board about that time.
11	So and they were
12	MEMBER ALBERTI: Didn't you know
13	what was going on? Didn't you communicate
14	with him regularly of what was going on?
15	MR. LaCOMB: Well, I
16	MEMBER ALBERTI: You got a
17	license. You knew at least by early 2010, you
18	knew you had the license. You had to know.
19	Did your attorney tell you in 2010 you had the
20	license?
21	MR. LaCOMB: Yeah, we knew we had
22	the license, yes. We

Page 20

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So what

happened then?

MR. LaCOMB: Then we paid the fee, you know, and got the license.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.

MR. LaCOMB: Now, here is the next steps. As we progressed, Sheldon Arpad, who is the owner of the property where we had this license, he also, like I had mentioned, has several other establishments in town that have restaurant licenses in them, but -- for alcohol.

We have one in Alexandria that has been -- in Alexandria, Virginia that has been a partner of Sheldon -- well, not a partner, but he has been a tenant of Sheldon and done a very successful restaurant there for many years. He was coming into the District with Sheldon to partner up and they were going to open a similar -- it was going to be like an Italian-type restaurant.

MEMBER ALBERTI: And I would

	Page 21
1	assume you would have known that when you got
2	the license.
3	MR. LaCOMB: Well
4	MEMBER ALBERTI: Right?
5	MR. LaCOMB: he
6	MEMBER ALBERTI: No? You started
7	working
8	MR. LaCOMB: I wasn't involved.
9	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, wait.
10	MR. LaCOMB: Yes.
11	MEMBER ALBERTI: I want to know,
12	did those negotiations start after you got the
13	license?
14	MR. LaCOMB: Those negotiations
15	were not negotiations. They were the actual
16	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Well, you
17	have a new partner you negotiated.
18	MR. LaCOMB: Yeah.
19	MEMBER ALBERTI: You know, I
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
21	MR. LaCOMB: Well, he got
22	MEMBER ALBERTI: Use whatever

tragedy. If you don't mind, I had mentioned it the time before. But then once we got with this gentleman, unfortunately, he got in a major car accident. His wife was killed in the accident and he became disabled.

Sheldon Arpad, himself, had major surgery to have a tumor removed from his neck and couldn't even speak for eight months. So that all happened in the last few years. Now, we --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, give me a time line. You want us to know that. You want us to use that information. I need details from you. I just can't take this nebulous so it happened some time in those four years and I don't really know. I mean, it matters to me. It matters to us.

MR. LaCOMB: The car accident happened in January of 2012.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So from -- and this guy's family -- that was Mr. Arpad, right?

Page 24 1 MR. LaCOMB: No, no. 2 MEMBER ALBERTI: That's --3 MR. LaCOMB: The gentleman--MEMBER ALBERTI: -- the partner. 4 MR. LaCOMB: -- that was coming 5 in. 6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, okay, so 7 2012. So that's two years after Mr. Arpad 8 9 acquired this license. Why did it take so 10 long? 11 MR. LaCOMB: Once again, I don't have that answer for those first two years. 12 13 I'm sorry. MEMBER ALBERTI: I have no further 14 questions. 15 16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Are there 17 other questions? I just have a couple clarifying questions. I have in my notes that 18 you were told that your license would be 19 canceled if it wasn't sold on or before 20 December 19, 2013. Is that your recollection 21 from the last Fact-Finding Hearing? 22 I mean,

	Page 25
1	I'll double check the transcript, but
2	MR. LaCOMB: No.
3	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: were you
4	on notice that your license would be canceled
5	if you didn't
6	MR. LaCOMB: No. We were never
7	told that here by anybody here. I mean, we
8	assumed that it's a possibility. We are not,
9	you know, silly. We knew that that's
10	something we were facing, that's why we were
11	making an effort to sell it.
12	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Were you at
13	the October 2nd Fact-Finding Hearing?
14	MR. LaCOMB: I was.
15	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I'll
16	double check that.
17	MR. LaCOMB: Yeah.
18	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: What was your
19	understanding when you came to this hearing
20	then with respect to the future of your
21	license?
22	MR. LaCOMB: Today?

1 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah.

MR. LaCOMB: Well, I knew we were on the line. Either we -- we are here to ask for a little more time if you will be gracious enough to give it. We will make our absolute best effort to sell it, just so we can at least try to recover some of our cost that we have to do this.

If not, we are at your mercy.

There is nothing we can do. I mean, I knew that coming here.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So what is it that we would -- that you would do and how much time, a month or two months, that would be different from what you have been doing since December?

MR. LaCOMB: We will take the step to go to national advertising immediately. I mean, as soon as I go out of here, I will make a phone call and we will transact that moment. That's -- and I think with the better weather, that I have a much better chance of making

1 this happen.

And as I mentioned to you, I just made a connection back there with a gentleman that may have somebody for me right away. So and I also think I can open back up the discussions with that previous one that walked away because of what he had heard in a rumor.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So you understand that, you know, part of what is behind this is that you have been sitting on a license for years that somebody else would have been using.

MR. LaCOMB: Absolutely. We don't want to sit on that any more than you want us to sit on it. Trust me.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So --

MR. LaCOMB: We want to get it off our hands as soon as possible.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. But I mean, this has to come to closure and so I just want to hear if you have anything else you want to say with respect to why, you know,

Page 28 1 one month is going to make a difference or some time. 2 3 MR. LaCOMB: I would hope you would give us a little more than one month. 4 It's just not enough time to make this kind of 5 6 a transaction. 7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm not 8 saying --

MR. LaCOMB: Yeah.

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CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm saying

you can put on the record right now what it is

you are saying you need and this is, I'm sure,

going to be -- I'm not sure, but I'm pretty

sure this is going to be the last --

MR. LaCOMB: I understand that.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: -- chance, if there is another chance, I mean. I don't know. There are a lot of chances built into the record already, so I just want you to be able to articulate right now what it is you plan to do and, you know, the time you need, so we have it for our consideration.

	Page 29
1	MR. LaCOMB: I'm sorry?
2	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You didn't
3	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
4	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: answer.
5	MR. LaCOMB: No, no, I am just
6	looking.
7	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: If you don't
8	have an answer, you don't have an answer.
9	MR. BARON: I think he has already
10	I'm sorry, Madam Chair, may I respond?
11	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.
12	MR. BARON: I think he earlier
13	indicated to you what his future plans are.
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I hear he is
15	going to go national and make a phone call and
16	it takes more than a month, that's all I
17	heard.
18	MR. BARON: Well, no. He was
19	going to go to national today to make the
20	phone call to get it advertised nationally.
21	And I think the main point he was making is
22	that the decision to sell, I think, was in the

Page 30 1 fall of 2013 right before the holiday season and that was not a good time to sell. 2 3 Now is the opportune time to sell and, from what I understand he was saying, 4 they didn't want to spend \$8,000 to \$10,000 in 5 national advertising in the fall/early winter 6 of 2013 when the prime time to try to sell it 7 8 is now upon us. 9 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I have 10 that. So what's the answer though with 11 respect to if you do this national advertising, which is the strategy --12 13 MR. LaCOMB: Would you be willing to give me three months to do --14 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 15 I can't say 16 what the Board is going to be willing to do. 17 MR. LaCOMB: Okay. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 18 What I want to hear from you is, and then we will 19 20 consider, what you think you need and why and then the Board will consider that. 21 MR. LaCOMB: Well, having -- I 22

Page 31 1 don't want to test your patience any more than what we have done already. No more than -- we 2 3 want just to go on any longer and we'll come to conclusion with it one way or the other 4 with you. 5 I would ask, humbly, for three 6 If I get three months, I will step 7 months. this up to the nth degree and absolutely do 8 9 our best to sell it. And if we don't -- time 10 is now for the sale in this time of year. 11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Madam Chair? 12 13 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr. Silverstein? 14 MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I think it is 15 16 important that we put some things on the 17 record. The gentleman has said that he does not recall being told certain things and this 18 was from the June 19th hearing and my 19 20 colleague, Mr. Alberti, has matters from the 21 October 2nd hearing. 22 This is after we recessed, came

back and discussed and I was Chair, at the time, temporarily.

"Thank you, Mr. LaComb, and thank you, Mr. Schaeffer, for coming here to helping to bring a little bit of clarity to this very difficult and muddled situation. We would like to make the situation, if possible, a little more clear.

This is what Mr. Arpad has, something of value, both the city, to other operators and to your organization. It is there, use it or lose it. I would like to propose that we give you six months, which is what we do with everyone virtually unless there is some extraordinary situation. And we ask you to come back six months from now with one of these two paths:

One is that the lease has been terminated as of the end of the year and that you have received DCRA-approval for an operating permit for a license at that site, not final approval to open it, but preliminary

1 approval.

And the second path is that of a transfer application to another owner. We have faced this dilemma previously and we must treat all of our applicants, and this was in fact in the Georgetown Glover Park area and it was within the past three months, and we must treat everyone equally.

And this is what we have done in the past and this is what we will do in this case."

MR. LaCOMB: Correct.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Mr. Alberti has comments that were made in the --

MEMBER ALBERTI: In October, I believe, 2, 2013. Mr. Schaeffer was here representing Mr. Arpad.

MR. LaCOMB: Correct.

MEMBER ALBERTI: And he says "A broker has been engaged. There actually have been some discussions with potential purchasers, though there hasn't been a firm

agreement on the price, but it is very possible that it will result in a sale."

MR. LaCOMB: Yes.

MEMBER ALBERTI: "If that doesn't happen, perhaps the license continues to be marketed and I feel comfortable that before the end of the year, the license will be sold and the purchaser will file an application to transfer to the location -- to some other location in Georgetown."

Okay. So then Ms. Miller says

"Okay." And you -- okay. "I just want to

make sure you understand what you need to show

the Board before December 19, 2013, so that

it's not canceled. I mean, in the event that

you are marketing this, that you need to have

a real transferee in place, at that point, and

with documents proving that like a lease or

like a sale agreement or whatever as of

December 19, 2013."

MR. LaCOMB: Correct.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So I don't know

1 if you remember.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.

MEMBER ALBERTI: I don't know if you were here, but Mr. Schaeffer was here.

And he should have informed his client of such.

MR. BARON: Right. I wasn't there. I heard what you said in the transcript. I'm not sure that's specifically advising that as of December without a transfer that the Board is going to make the decision to cancel.

It certainly does indicate that that would be the intent of the Board, but we are here at the request -- to explain to you what has happened and explain to you that when, I believe, Board Member Silverstein indicated, I think it was in the spring there was a letter, February, six months and that you had to take -- tell us what path you were going on within that six months.

The applicant said the path was

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1	the sale of the license. And that's the path
2	that they have been going on since the fall,
3	September/October 2013. So they have been
4	trying to sell it since then, but just not at
5	the right time.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah, yeah,
7	okay. Mr. Rodriguez?
8	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Mr. LaComb, I'm
9	new on this Board, but I have some questions
LO	for you.
L1	MR. LaCOMB: Sure.
L2	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: One question is
L3	you said that you did advertising in the
L <b>4</b>	Washington Post.
L5	MR. LaCOMB: Yes.
L6	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And do you have
L7	an estimate as to what you spent in the
L8	advertising in the Washington Post?
L9	MR. LaCOMB: I would say it was in
20	the neighborhood of \$1,200 to \$2,000 somewhere
21	right in there.
22	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Can you provide

Page 37 1 this Board a copy of the advertising to see? Because I'm new, I need to see what kind of 2 advertising you did with the Washington Post. 3 And why you couldn't get even a nibble. 4 MR. LaCOMB: We actually have some 5 nibbles, sir. I mean, I was close, very 6 close. The first week of January, I thought 7 I could pull this off. I just -- the guy 8 pulled out because of what he had heard. 9 10 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Could you 11 present our Board a copy of the advertising that you used, sir? 12 13 MR. LaCOMB: I can't. I can't right this moment. 14 15 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Right. 16 MR. LaCOMB: But I -- yes, I can. 17 MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay. 18 you. MR. LaCOMB: Yes. 19 20 MEMBER ALBERTI: May I just 21 follow-up with that? 22 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, uh-huh.

Page 38 1 MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Rodriguez, you know, I'm not sure this is going to 2 continue. I'm not sure where I stand on that. 3 I think I would like to talk to the rest of 4 the Board. But in the event that this 5 continues, I think you are -- you made a good 6 point and maybe --7 8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah. 9 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- we could ask 10 the licensee to show evidence of all the 11 efforts. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. 12 13 MEMBER ALBERTI: And all of the close calls you have. 14 MR. LaCOMB: 15 Okay. 16 MEMBER ALBERTI: You know, with whom they were made. I don't need the dollar 17 amounts, the details, but I need to know. 18 know, if this was to continue, I would certain 19 20 want a show-me of everything --21 MR. LaCOMB: Okay. 22 MEMBER ALBERTI: -- that you have

Page 39 1 done. How close you -- you know, who was it in your negotiation and some description of 2 3 how close you got. MR. LaCOMB: That's correct. 4 might even be able --5 That's only fair 6 MEMBER ALBERTI: to this Board. 7 MR. LaCOMB: I understand. 8 Ι 9 understand. Thank you. 10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good 11 question. I also want to just clarify this. You did not buy this license from someone 12 13 else. That's not one of your expenses. 14 MR. LaCOMB: No, we --15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You got it 16 through the District. 17 MR. LaCOMB: -- secured it during 18 the moratorium directly, yes. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So all of 19 20 your expenses were kind of voluntary expenses, 21 what you needed to do with it with respect to it being a business or advertising to sell. 22

Page 40 1 There weren't any --MR. LaCOMB: Right. 2 3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, I don't know. Is that correct? 4 MR. LaCOMB: Yeah. I'm not sure 5 how that is any different than any type of 6 business transaction whether we were trying to 7 buy it off somebody else, that would be 8 9 voluntary, too. It wouldn't matter. There is 10 a cost involved. 11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: No, I understand. Some times though when people 12 13 have bought a license and they are trying to sell it to get back the money that they paid 14 for it initially. 15 16 MR. LaCOMB: Right. No, we are 17 just trying --That's not 18 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: your case? 19 20 MR. LaCOMB: -- to cover costs. 21 We don't even care if we make a profit. We just want our costs. That's all. 22

MR. LaCOMB: I mean, we would probably take a loss if we had the right offer. So we are not trying to hold on. We want you to have a going -- business going.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any other questions right now? All right. I think that the Board would like to recess and deliberate with counsel on this and then get back to you. I mean, if you can wait here.

Is that correct? Is that the consensus of the Board?

ALL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Okay.

That's what I was sensing. All right. I'm

going to then read the instructions for our

vote to go into closed session.

All right. As Chairperson of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the District of Columbia and in accordance with Section 405 of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010, I move that the ABC Board hold a

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1	closed meeting for the purpose of seeking
2	legal advice from our counsel on the case
3	involving Come to Eat, License No. 85370, per
4	Section 405(b)(4) of the Open Meetings
5	Amendment Act of 2010, and deliberating upon
6	this case for the reasons cited in Section
7	405(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Amendment Act
8	of 2010.
9	Is there a second?
10	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.
11	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr.
12	Silverstein seconded the motion. I will now
13	take a roll call vote on the motion now that
14	it has been seconded.
15	Mr. Brooks?
16	MEMBER BROOKS: I agree.
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Alberti?
18	MEMBER ALBERTI: I agree.
19	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr.
20	Rodriguez?
21	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I agree.
22	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Ms. Miller

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1	agrees.
2	Mr. Silverstein?
3	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree.
4	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Short?
5	MEMBER SHORT: I agree.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It appears
7	that the motion has passed by a vote of 6-0-0,
8	so the Board will now go into closed session
9	and we will return shortly.
10	MR. LaCOMB: Okay. Thank you.
11	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.
12	(Whereupon, at 10:41 a.m. a recess
13	until 10:56 a.m.)
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. The
15	Board is back on the record after doing some
16	deliberation on this matter in closed session.
17	And we are now going to put this on the
18	record, so that everyone can hear.
19	So the Board has considered the
20	history of this case and, in particular,
21	looked at well, I, in particular, looked at
22	the sequence of events of Fact-Finding

Hearings here and what we said at different Fact-Finding Hearings and what notice this licensee was under with respect to actions that needed to be taken in order to avoid cancellation of the license.

And unfortunately, it's my view
that -- I think that the licensee was under
clear notice that December 19th was really the
date that the Board needed and expected
information showing that he was making
specific efforts to sell and that there was a
lease or a sale or whatever.

And I want to -- I'm reading my quote from the October 2nd transcript, I believe, in which I said, I was referencing a letter to Mr. Schaeffer that said "Mr. Arpad understands that if he is unable to sell the license on or before December 19, 2013, the Board has the authority to deem the license abandoned and cancel the license in safekeeping and that Mr. Arpad will keep the Board advised of any progress he makes in his

attempt to sell the license."

and I think that the December 19th letter that was submitted is really inadequate with respect to showing really specific progress or efforts. It is very general and I think that the Board needs to stick to what it says and that we gave clear guidance. And it just looks to me like we just can't keep extending the time, because this is a publication is a license for the public and this applicant has done nothing with it for four years. And I think that the time has run out.

So I think that is unfortunate,
but I think that's the reality here. And so
I would move to cancel and ask for a second.
And then see -- cancel the license, ask for a second and then see if others want to speak to the issue.

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I second,

Madam Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So Mr.
22 Silverstein has seconded the motion. Does

	Page 46
1	anyone else want to speak to this? No? Okay.
2	I think that the Board Members did speak to
3	this issue before we went into session as
4	well.
5	So, okay. There is a motion then
6	to
7	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Madam Chair?
8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes? Oh, you
9	do want to speak to it?
10	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I do.
11	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
12	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I simply want
13	to say that we did take another license out of
14	safekeeping and canceled that involving
15	another individual and that we are required to
16	treat all people equally.
17	We did that to a small business
18	woman in Glover Park and we have to do the
19	same here. The idea that we are taking all
20	licenses out of safekeeping and taking them
21	all back is not true.
22	However, we safekeeping is a

temporary issue involving hardship, involving the time that is required to get through hoops, involving the time it required to make repairs on a place, things of that sort.

It is not simply kicking the can down the road indefinitely and we cannot do that. These licenses do not belong, especially in a Moratorium Zone, to a person who simply gets in first in line and can keep it for an extended period of time. They are a public entity.

And that's why we are making this move. I'm speaking for myself. Thank you,

Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you.

Others? I just want to also add to what you said. It's true that 25-791 deals with safekeeping and it talks about temporary surrender of license and it deals in six month increments.

So this has been, you know, not used for over four years. So, okay. Anything

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1	else? The motion has been seconded.
2	All those in favor of the motion
3	say aye.
4	ALL: Aye.
5	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those
6	opposed? All those abstaining? The motion
7	passes 6-0-0.
8	I want to say that you will be
9	getting a written order canceling, a
10	cancellation and then that is subject if
11	you want to file a Motion for Reconsideration,
12	that's your legal right, just so you know what
13	to expect.
14	MR. LaCOMB: Thank you.
15	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Thank
16	you.
17	MR. LaCOMB: The cancellation
18	date? It will be effective immediately or
19	will it be
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: When the
21	written order is issued.
22	MR. LaCOMB: Okay. Thank you.

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1	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
2	(Whereupon, the Fact-Finding
3	Hearing in the above-entitled matter was
4	concluded at 11:01 a.m.)
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